



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Channing Phillips  
Acting United States Attorney**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Department of Homeland Security building supervisor pleads guilty to theft of government property**

WASHINGTON - A 46-year-old employee of the Department of Homeland Security, Kirk Washington, has pled guilty to a charge of theft of government property and agreed to voluntarily resign from his government job, in connection with his theft of \$3000 worth of retail gift cards from a government building under his jurisdiction, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips announced today.

Washington, currently residing in the 2900 block of Lloyd Court, Temple Hills, MD, entered his guilty plea today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. When Washington is sentenced on December 15, 2009, he faces up to one year of imprisonment. As part of his plea agreement, Washington agreed to make restitution in the amount of \$3000, and to resign from the Department of Homeland Security.

According to the government's evidence, Washington was employed by the Department of Homeland Security as a Branch Chief of Building Services, responsible for logistical support for maintenance and security, at various U.S. Customs and Border Protection locations at six federal buildings, including 1400 L Street, NW. In December 2008, Washington went to an office inside 1400 L Street where he knew a supply of retail gift cards was locked in a cabinet, obtained the key from a supervisor's desk, and stole \$3000 worth of the cards. He used most of the cards for personal use, while also giving some to family and co-workers. When the theft was discovered in March 2009, Washington told law enforcement personnel he had some knowledge of the matter, and eventually admitted his involvement.

In announcing today's guilty plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the work of the investigative agents involved in this matter, Special Agent Brendt Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Protective Service, and Special Agent Cordell Green of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Internal Affairs. He also acknowledged the efforts of Legal Assistant Sierra Tate, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Friedman, who is handling this prosecution.

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